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Ministry of Forests

FIVE BILLIONTH TREE HIGHLIGHTS EXCELLENCE IN SILVICULTURE

PRINCE GEORGE – Premier Gordon Campbell and Forests Minister Michael de Jong joined local community and industry leaders in a ceremony today to celebrate the five billionth tree planted in British Columbia.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment for our forest industry, workers and communities, and highlights the excellent work and innovation that have made B.C. a world leader in forest management," Campbell said. "Strong stewardship of our forest resources is vital to building future prosperity. We're committed to supporting research and continued improvements in silviculture to build on the progress to date."

The government is dedicating $20 million this year to forestry research, and a further $6 million for tree improvement, under the new Forest Investment Account.

"Reforestation is a critical component of forest management in British Columbia," said de Jong. "The Forest Investment Account will help us meet our New Era commitment to achieve more advances in research, which in turn means higher-quality seedlings, improved planting practices and higher survival rates."

It took 51 years from the time the first seedling was planted in British Columbia in 1930 to the first billion in 1981. The second billion mark was reached in 1989, the third billion in 1993 and the fourth billion in 1997.

"Today, more than 200 million seedlings are planted every year, and at this pace, B.C. will plant its six billionth tree in 2007," de Jong said.

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Contact:

Jeff Elder
Ministry of Forests - Prince George
250 565-7089 or cell 250 565-7829

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